

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 4-16 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 16 has been added. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1, 11, and 16 are in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,279,798 to Partch et al. (“the ’798 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner states that claims 3-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2 and allowable claim 3.

Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 3.

Claims 4-10 depend from amended claim 1 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the ’798 reference be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,254,183 to Bian et al. (“the ’183 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The ’183 reference discloses a vehicle passenger seat 10 having a seat bottom 16 and a seat back 18. The seat bottom 16 includes a seat base 20 and a foam seat cushion 22. The seat

cushion 22 is removably attached to the base 20. The passenger seat 10 also includes a pair of laterally spaced anchorage members 30 for anchoring a child seat 12 to the passenger seat 10 when the seat cushion 22 is removed therefrom.

Claim 11 of the above-captioned application claims a removable bolster (30) including an inner body (32) defining a resilient snap port (34) for receiving a portion of a loop fastener (24) therein and selectively securing the removable bolster (30) to the loop fastener (24); a cover (38) fixedly secured to the inner body (32); and a plush (44) fixedly secured to the cover (38) to match the removable bolster (30) to a seat assembly (10).

The cover (38) is further defined in paragraph [0019] of the published version of the above-captioned application as C-shaped, wherein ends (40) of the cover (38) are fixedly secured to the inner body (32). The cover (38) defines an interior space (42). The cover (38) is fabricated from a flexible material allowing it to be deformed and compress, redefining the interior space (42) when an occupant sits on the seat assembly (10). The cover (38) is resiliently deformable allowing the hollow interior space (42) to return to its steady state condition after the occupant leaves the seat assembly (10).

The plush (44) is further defined in paragraph [0020] of the published version of the above-captioned application as a thick covering of the cover (38). It is contemplated that the plush (44) will have an outer surface, or trim cover, (46) that includes the same material that is used on at least a portion of the seat assembly (10) allowing the removable bolster (30) to match the appearance and aesthetics of the seat assembly (10). The thickness of the plush (44) is created by a foam layer. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the foam layer may be fabricated from materials other than foam allowing the cover (38) and plush (44) to combine to give the feel that the removable bolster (30) has a cushioning effect.

The '183 reference does not disclose a cover fixedly secured to an inner body of a removable bolster, as required by claim 11 of the above-captioned application. More specifically, the '183 reference does not disclose anything about the interior structure of the child seat 12. Thus, the cited reference does not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a

cover fixedly secured to an inner body. As a result, Applicant contends that the invention set forth in claim 11 of the above-captioned application would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '183 reference be withdrawn.

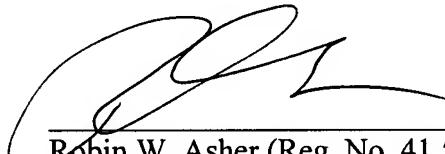
New independent claim 16 has been added. Independent claim 16 claims a seat assembly including a frame fixedly secured to a motor vehicle; a seat cushion secured to the frame, the seat cushion including a recess and defining a seat width; a seat back secured to the frame; a loop fastener fixedly secured to the frame and extending between the seat cushion and the seat back, the loop fastener adapted to selectively receive a child seat latch therethrough to secure a child seat to the seat assembly; and a removable bolster received by the recess in the seat cushion and selectively securable to the loop fastener to cover the loop fastener when the child seat is removed from the seat assembly such that occupants of the seat assembly will contact the removable bolster and be prevented from feeling the loop fastener when sitting on the seat assembly. Applicant contends that the cited references do not disclose a seat cushion including a recess to receive a bolster therein, as required by new independent claim 16 of the above-captioned application.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Appl'n No: 10/593,210
Amdt dated November 10, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 10, 2007

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 11/12/07
Attorney Docket No: 19365-109957